

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

2019 JUL -2 AM 9:35

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building**.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The original *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), AND
- ☒ A copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel date(s): May 25 / June 2, 2019

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING DID NOT INCREASE DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$5,783.54	\$1,840.23	\$1,172.39	Other expenses: \$3,459.76 See breakdown attached
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate				
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See attached itinerary

6.25.19

(Date)

Reynaldo A. Benitez

(Printed name of traveler)



(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

(Date)

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

Tips: \$7.34 per person

Yearsley, Josh (Cortez Masto)

From: Benitez, Reynaldo (Cortez Mastro)
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Yearsley, Josh (Cortez Mastro)
Subject: Fwd: AIEF Seminar in Israel: May 25-June 2, 2019

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sharrae Allen <sallen@aiefdn.org>
Date: April 3, 2019 at 10:23:41 AM EDT
To: "reynaldo_benitez@cortezmasto.senate.gov" <reynaldo_benitez@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Subject: AIEF Seminar in Israel: May 25-June 2, 2019



AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

March 28, 2019

Rey Benitez
Chief of Staff
The Office of the Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
204 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Rey,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in an educational seminar in Israel for Senate and House Chiefs of Staff, May 25 – June 2, 2019. The trip will depart Saturday afternoon, May 25; and return to the U.S. on Sunday morning, June 2.

LN
CD
FH
AN
CD
CD
CD
CD
CD
CD
CD
CD

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors):
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
2. Description of the trip:
Please see addendum
3. Dates of travel: May 25-June 2, 2019
4. Place of travel: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Tiberias
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
- OR -
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- AND -
☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
- AND -
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of the trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. The delegation will have the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of Israelis and Palestinians, and see first-hand the outcome of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation in the region.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:
Please see addendum

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Please see addendum

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$9,638.68	\$1,814.43	\$1,046	\$2,809.63
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	air = \$9,255.34 airport assist = \$55.56 bus = \$311.11 taxi = \$16.67	JLM = \$1,046.25 TLV = \$617.52 TIB = \$150.66	JLM = \$560 TLV = \$340 TIB = \$146	Please see breakdown attached

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

b) The trip involves an event that is arranged and organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The trip will take place in Israel in order to educate Senate Chiefs of Staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Orient (Emek Refaim Street 3, Jerusalem); Carlton (Ellezer Peri Street 10, Tel Aviv);

Europa (HaPalmach Street 3, Tiberias)

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

We chose these hotels due to their location and affordability.

- Please see addendum**

round-trip, business class on a commercial airline, chartered bus on the ground in Israel

- none

- E-mail Address: rhirsch@aiefdn.org

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
May 25 – June 2, 2019**

Addendum

2. Description of the Trip

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for seven days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: Iran's continued malign regional activities; the impact of Syrian civil war along Israel's northern border; the internal political situations of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of the peace process; and the expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in fighting terrorism and proliferation.

The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials, as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence. The seminar also aims to provide the political, historic, and religious context to the current conflicts and issues facing Israel and the region. It will explore the connection the three monotheistic religions have with the land and the influence this connection has on today's struggles. In addition to formal meetings and briefings, the trip provides experiential opportunities to help better understand the geographical complications, the security implications, and the historic root causes of the current conflicts.

14. Sponsoring Congressional Trips

Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, students, political consultants, as well as Christian, Latino, African American, Progressive, and Veteran leaders. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country. The most recent Senate trip was for Senator Tina Smith in March, 2019.

15. Other Educational Activities

AIEF grants support innovative and award-winning programming that educates a wide array of participants, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals.

[illegible]

-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

-Honoraria for guest speakers

- As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$177.78 per person

-The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

-We pay a 7% hotel room commission to the company that books our hotels.

Entrance Fees: \$50 per person

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Photography: \$27.78 per person

- On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

-Tips for hotel staff

Meal expenses are equal to the foreign per diem rate for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias. Lodging expenses are less than the foreign per diem for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias. Meal expenses include the cost for meals, snacks, and water on the bus. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.

1. **Rey Benitez, The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)**
2. **Doug Coutts, The Honorable Tom Cotton (R-AR)**
3. **Joe Hack, The Honorable Deb Fischer (R-NE)**
4. **Mark Johnston, The Honorable Mike Rounds (R-SD)**
5. **Kyle Plotkin, The Honorable Josh Hawley (R-MO)**
6. **Jonathan Stahler, The Honorable Chris Coons (D-DE)**

1. **Rey Benitez, The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)**
2. **Doug Coutts, The Honorable Tom Cotton (R-AR)**
3. **Joe Hack, The Honorable Deb Fischer (R-NE)**
4. **Mark Johnston, The Honorable Mike Rounds (R-SD)**
5. **Kyle Plotkin, The Honorable Josh Hawley (R-MO)**
6. **Jonathan Stahler, The Honorable Chris Coons (D-DE)**

1. **Rey Benitez, The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)**
2. **Doug Coutts, The Honorable Tom Cotton (R-AR)**
3. **Joe Hack, The Honorable Deb Fischer (R-NE)**
4. **Mark Johnston, The Honorable Mike Rounds (R-SD)**
5. **Kyle Plotkin, The Honorable Josh Hawley (R-MO)**
6. **Jonathan Stahler, The Honorable Chris Coons (D-DE)**

MONITOR

CONFIDENTIAL

Saturday, May 25, 2019

6:21 PM Arrive Newark

Sunday, May 26, 2019

6:30 PM Check-in to the Orient Hotel

7:15 PM	Depart for dinner
---------	-------------------

8:00-10:00 PM *State of the Nation*
Dinner with David Horowitz
Editor, *Times of Israel*
- at Touro

David Horovitz is the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz is will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

Shalom Jerusalem

1

the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

10:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Monday, May 27, 2019

7:30 AM Breakfast is served
-at the hotel

7:45-8:45 AM *Israel's Political Map*
Professor Reuven Hazan
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- at the hotel

Israel's Political Map

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:00 AM Depart for Strategic Survey of Jerusalem

9:15 AM-1:00 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I:*
The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David
Guided Survey of the Old City of Jerusalem with Ze'ev Orenstein

The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, which is believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East.

The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

1:00-2:15 PM *Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: How Wide is the Gap?*
Lunch with Tal Becker
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at Caffit Botanical Gardens

Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: How Wide is the Gap?

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

2:15 PM Depart

3:15-4:30 PM *Meetings with Members of Knesset*
▪ The Honorable Amir Ohana, Likud
The Honorable Stav Shaffir, Labor
-at the Knesset

4:30 PM Depart

4:45-5:30 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part II:*
Post-1967 Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

Post-1967 Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

5:30 PM Depart for hotel

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

- 7:45-9:45 PM *Israelis from Different Walks of Life*
 Dinner with:
- Chen Arieli, Chairperson, Aguda-National LGBT Task Force
 - Avi Samuels, SHALVA

Israeli's From Different Walks of Life

"The Israeli Mosaic" will be a dinner discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

- 9:45 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

- 7:45 AM Breakfast is served
 - at the hotel
- 8:00-9:00 AM *Minority Rights in Israel*
 Breakfast with Aiman Saif
 Former Director,
 The Authority for Economic Development of the Minorities Sector
 Prime Minister's Office
 -at the hotel

Minority Rights in Israel

As of the 2015 census, approximately 21% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens. Currently 14 Israeli Arabs and 2 Druze serve in the 120-member Israeli Knesset. During this session, the speaker will discuss the current challenges facing minority groups in Israel, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

- 9:15 AM Depart for Yad Vashem
- 9:45-11:45 AM *Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust*
 Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

Yad Vashem

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This evening's Start-Up Nation dinner will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

7:45 AM Depart

Save a Child's Heart

9:45 AM Depart

11:45 AM-12:45 PM *Israel's Southern Front*
Overlook into Gaza and Visit to Peace Wall
-at Netiv Ha'asara

Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. The summer of 2014 witnessed Operation Protective Edge, which returned the issue of rocket fire from Gaza to international headlines. At Kibbutz Nir Am, participants will be able to see the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to better comprehend the landscape of the region, as well as the unique challenges faced by this area. The visit to Kibbutz Kfar Azza and meeting

with a local resident will be an opportunity to better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, to learn how almost 15 years of rocket fire has shaped those living in the communities most affected, to discuss the advent of Hamas "terror tunnels" into Israel's border towns and how communities have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

12:45 PM Depart
Boxed Lunches en Route

1:00-1:30 PM *Israel's Missile Defense Systems*
Visit to Iron Dome Battery

The Iron Dome

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) typically honors our request to visit an Iron Dome battery, the joint U.S.-Israel funded rocket defense program. The military typically approves any visit to an Iron Dome location the week before the trip due to the constantly shifting security situation on the ground. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

1:30 PM Depart

3:00-3:30 PM *360° Bird's Eye View*
Briefing from the Azrieli Tower Rooftop

Azrieli Center Rooftop

From the rooftop of the Azrieli center, participants will be standing at the highest observatory in the Middle East. The panoramic view stretches from Ashkelon in the south to Hadera in the north. On a clear day one see almost 70 percent of the country, as far as Jerusalem to the East. The importance of this visit is to provide participants a geostrategic viewpoint from which to understand the narrow waistline of Israel, which at its narrowest spans 9 miles from the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Additionally, the area visible from this vantage point – referred to as the Gadera-Hadera corridor – comprises a small rectangle of land that can be covered lengthwise in under an hour. This section of Israel includes over 50% of Israel's population, economic infrastructure, as well as its only International Airport.

3:30 PM Depart

4:00-5:00 PM *Israel's Missile Defense Systems*
Briefing with Ari Sacher
-at the Hotel

Israel's Missile Defense Systems

Ari Sacher is a Rocket Scientist and has worked in the design and development of missiles for over twenty years. He has briefed hundreds of US Congressmen on Israeli Missile Defense and speaks regularly for the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Ari is highly regarded speaker, enabling even

the layman to understand the "rocket science". During this session, he will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to Israel's development of multi-tiered missile defense system.

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM *1967: A Look Back*
- at Lumina

1967: A Look Back

2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, also known as the Six-Day War. The 1967 war has set the stage for every major event in the Arab-Israeli crisis since. The speaker will discuss how this event shaped the region, Israeli society, and the Arab-Israeli conflict over the past five decades.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

Thursday, May 30, 2019

8:00 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel

8:15-9:15 AM *Regional Strategic Threats*
Meeting with Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilead
Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS)
Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya
- at the hotel

Regional Strategic Threats

Gen. (Ret.) Amos Gilead is the Executive Director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) and Chair of the Annual Herzliya Conference Series at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya. Gilead is the immediate past director of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau at Israel's Ministry of Defense. Gen. Gilead served for over 30 years in uniform. He was Coordinator of Government Operations in the Territories, headed the Military Intelligence Research Division, and was responsible for the overall National Intelligence Assessment. He also served as Military Secretary to the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. Gen. Gilead has been one of the key figures in defining Israel's defense policy. During this session, he will provide participants with an overview of Regional Strategic Threats, including the threat of Iranian proxies near Israel.

9:30 AM Depart

10:30-11:15 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns*
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline.

The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

- Oded Revivi, Mayor of Efrat
- Yariv Oppenheimer, Former Head of Peace Now -at Community Center, Alfei Menashe

Israeli settlement policy is one of the more complex issues in the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Mayor Revivi is the Mayor of a settlement in the West Bank; Yariv Oppenheimer is the former head of Peace now. This session provides an opportunity for members to get an insider's perspective on Israeli settlement policy, the differing views among Israeli citizens, and the role settlements play in the current political climate.

1:15-2:15 PM *Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq*
-at Tanduka

As the delegation leaves the Gaza border, and heads north to the borders with Lebanon and Syria, it is critical to understand the threats faced by Israel from these three areas, all Iranian proxies. The briefing will cover the unique situation at each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

- *The Jezreel Valley – The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa*
- *Upper Galilee – Potential for Development*

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel's complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel's Arab citizens. A survey of this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel's Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel's Supreme Court. These issues are not widely known and this segment gives trip participants the opportunity to understand Israel's relationship with its largest minority group.

The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel.

While time does not permit for sites visits, a drive through the region allows for expanding on the importance of the area in the context of the U.S.–Israel relationship.

3:30-4:30 PM

Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi served 15 years in the IDF in Military Intelligence –first in the Research and Analysis Branch, and later in the Northern Command. During her military service she briefed hundreds of delegations, ranging from U.S. Senators, Congressmen and politicians to global military commanders, senior journalists and visiting VIP delegations. She is the founder/director of Alma, an educational research center focusing on the security issues of Israel's northern border. Zehavi has authored many position papers focusing on Lebanon, Syria and Israel's national security challenges, and continues to brief delegations on these topics. She holds an MA in Middle East Studies from Ben Gurion University and is a resident of the northern Galilee region. She will brief the group on the current threats facing Israel by Iranian backed Hizballah in Lebanon.

4:30 PM	Depart
6:15 PM	Check-in to Europa Hotel
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00-10:00 PM	<i>Reflections on the Week</i> - Dinner at Decks

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Europa Hotel

8:00 AM	Breakfast at the Hotel
---------	------------------------

8:30 AM	Depart
9:00-11:00 AM	<i>Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee</i> Survey of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount▪ St. Peter's Church▪ Capernaum – Jesus' Village

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of

Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM	Depart for the Golan Heights
----------	------------------------------

12:00-1:00 PM *Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria*
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria
With Maj. Ilan Shulman
- at Ein Zivan

Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

1:15-2:15 PM *Ethics in the IDF*
Lunch with IDF Soldiers
-at HaBokrim

Ethics in the IDF

Ruach Tzahal (Literally, 'Spirit of the IDF') represents the values of the Israel Defense Forces and stands as the foundation for the responsibilities of Israel's army. This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. During basic training, every IDF soldier studies and analyzes the code of ethics together with their commanders. It is customary for a framed copy of the code to be hung in every commander's office as a constant reminder of the IDF's values and guidelines. During lunch, participants will be joined by soldiers in the Northern Command, who will discuss the challenges of serving in a region overtaken by the Syrian civil war.

2:30-3:30 PM Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley
En route briefing:
Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrian refugees fleeing civil war. Following our discussion with Israeli soldiers patrolling the Syrian border, our guide will address how the influx of Syrian refugees and the threats in the region impact Jordan internally; as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5:30 PM | Check-in to the Orient Hotel |
| 7:15 PM | Depart for dinner |
| 7:30-9:30 PM | <i>Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem</i>
Traditional Sabbath evening dinner
With Wendy and Saul Singer
- at their home in Jerusalem |

Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple.

The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 9:30 PM | Overnight at the Orient Hotel |
|---------|-------------------------------|

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor

10:00 AM-12:00 PM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

The Sabbath in Israel begins Friday afternoon and concludes on Saturday evening. During the Sabbath, virtually everything in the country is closed including all government offices, businesses, newspapers etc. Therefore, for years, we have used Saturdays to expose our congressional members and staff delegations to some of the key historical and cultural sites in Israel such as Masada. Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. “Masada shall never fall again” has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel’s elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel’s contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. touring the magnificent ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

During our trip to the Negev, we will also visit the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and a major source of minerals for both Israel and Jordan.

12:30-1:30 PM *Exploration of the Dead Sea Region*
- at Hod Hotel

Dead Sea Region

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding the region, the country, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally “made the desert bloom.” Some of this technology is already being shared with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. All sides realize that a comprehensive regional water policy will ensure food production necessary to satisfy the Middle East’s growing population. For example, in late 2013, the three parties agreed to build a Red Sea-Dead Sea water project to address the shortage of fresh, clean water in the region and the rapid loss of water at the Dead Sea. This highlights the growing importance for Israel and her Arab neighbors to work together on joint environmental projects.

The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are also in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

1:30-2:30 PM Lunch
-at Hod Hotel

2:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 PM Return to hotel
Check out

00
01
02
03
04
05
06
07
08
09
10
11

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in SH-220. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved. This form must be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Reynaldo Benitez

Employing Office/Committee: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Fund (AIEF)

Travel date(s): May 25 - June 2, 2019

Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Destination(s): Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias, Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:


As the Chief of Staff, I advise and represent the Senator on issues including foreign policy, trade, and defense. With a significant military presence and population at Nevada's various installations and Israel as one of the US's strong allies, these issues are important to the country and Nevadans. I need to provide informed advice and recommendations to the Senator and be able to represent and articulate her positions to stakeholders. This trip will provide insight and context to more clearly understand the US-Israel relationship, its broader impacts and help to inform my work in advising and representing the Senator on these issues.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

5.20.19
(Date)


(Signature of Employee)

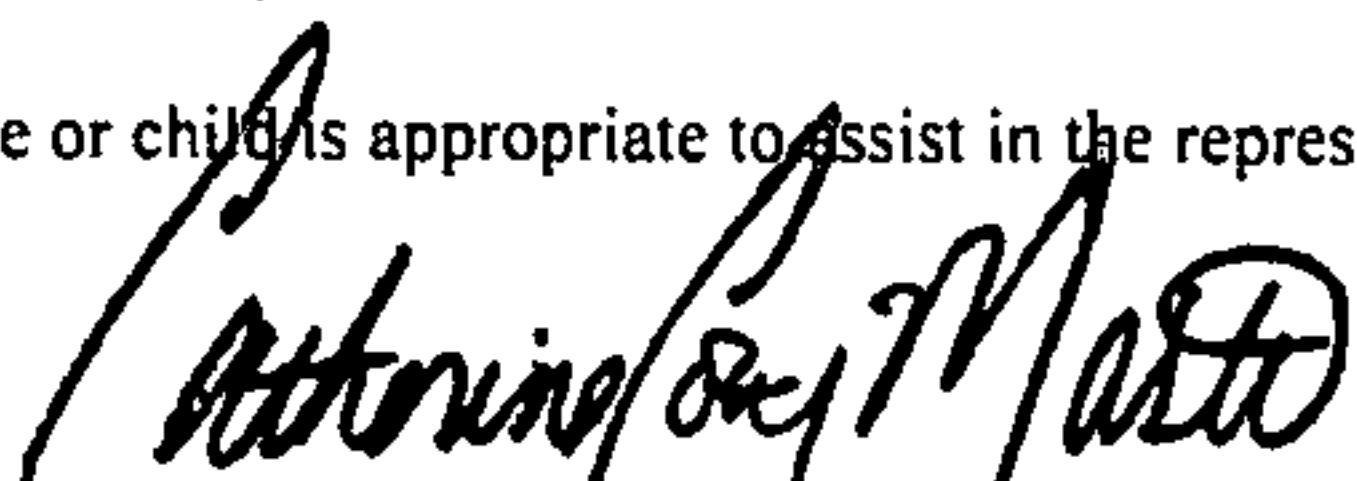
TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto hereby authorize Reynaldo Benitez
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

5/20/19
(Date)


(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)